

Ward 6 community members can find the most up to date information on health and safety procedures, vaccinations, testing, and other resources at the Return to Campus webpage, located at: <https://www.uvm.edu/returntocampus>.

This Front Porch Forum post from Gail Shampnois also has a lot of information on health and safety and links to more information. Here it is:

**Gail Shampnois • UVM Office of Student and Community Relations, Burlington**  
[Announcement](#)

Dear Neighbors,

As we head into what we hope is the home stretch of the pandemic, UVM continues to work closely with the State and the City of Burlington: sharing and responding to data, following the Vermont Department of Health and Commissioner Mark Levine's advice and guidance, and doing contingency planning as new circumstances come up.

At this time, we want to update you on our prevention measures:

- Mandatory twice weekly COVID-19 testing will continue through April 3 when it will be re-evaluated.
- Stricter gathering guidelines apply to UVM students. UVM requires that students do not gather indoors or outdoors with anyone other than the people they live with in their household for the following reasons: 1. Concern about the increased off-campus cases and 2. The Vermont Health Department report of more contagious strains being found in the State from the United Kingdom and California.
- Regular communications with students and families.
- Outlining concerns about the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and the steps we are taking to reduce them (<https://www.uvm.edu/returntocampus/return-campus-updates>). Our messages echo the prevention advice of Commissioner Levine: 1) Don't let your guard down now in this home stretch. Keep up with masking and keep your distance and avoid crowds. 2) Get tested if you find you have been in a risky situation or think you may have even mild symptoms (note: students with any symptom can get a rapid antigen test with same-day results from UVM's Student Health Services, available six days/week; <https://www.uvm.edu/health/appointments>). And 3) review the State's vaccination schedule (<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>).
- Timely response to incidents reported on the Office of Student and Community Relations website (<https://www.uvm.edu/oscr>) about violations of the Green and Gold Promise. (<https://www.uvm.edu/deanofstudents/green-and-gold-promise>).
- Holding students accountable through the Center for Student Conduct's processes when the Green and Gold Promise is broken. (<https://www.uvm.edu/sconduct/covid-19-student-conduct-implications-violations-green-and-gold-promise>).
- Public health safety signage (masking, distancing) to be redistributed in the neighborhoods (now that the ground has thawed).

We are also responding to the mental health needs of our students (<https://www.uvm.edu/health/covid-19-mental-health-resources>). In our recent off-campus survey, students reported the following pandemic impacts: 1) stress or anxiety, 2) loneliness or isolation, and 3) disappointment or sadness.

As noted by state and city leaders and in e-mails and posts by neighbors, as well as demonstrated in our survey data, the vast majority of our students are showing their care for themselves, their house mates, and their community by following the Green and Gold Promise. For those who are not, the university is holding them accountable and letting them know that they put themselves and others at risk. Many have worked hard to make it through this pandemic and that is much appreciated. We also want to thank the many community members, city departments, and organizations who have supported our students in myriad ways, including neighborhood food pantries; quarantine check-ins; and up-to-date resources for rent, utilities, food support, and mental health care. It truly has taken a village.